



Dear Faithful-

If signs of Spring in Iowa include robins, daffodils, and butterflies; then signs of Fall must include U-Haul trucks and trailers, furniture on the curb and the city painting the crosswalks that will be ignored as the students come back to campus. Many students are moving back to Iowa City this weekend. Most new leases begin August 1. And I am excited. I know that soon you will not be able to find a parking spot downtown. And for that I am sorry. But Iowa City was meant to be filled with the energy of college students.

Here at the Newman Center, our FOCUS missionaries are also arriving. Each of them after a busy summer schedule. We have the same team as last year: Luke Landiak, Elizabeth Foley, Kobe Eischeid and Katherine Hopping. This year, I am pleased to announce that we will be adding a fifth missionary: Carly Colbert. She is a recent graduate from Indiana University and is excited to learn what it means to be a Hawkeye.

This Sunday, the reading from the Old Testament is from the Book of Ecclesiastes. The reading given is a bit of a downer, since we are not going to continue with the book. The author looks at all human activity and finds it lacking. At the end of the book, the one thing that he finds that gives all human activity meaning is its connection with God. So, as we gear up to welcome back students, and welcome the freshmen and transfer students for the first time, please keep us in prayer. It is about to get very busy here. And through our partnership with all of you and our mission, given to us by God, we will make disciples (and disciple makers) for the Church and the world.

A quick shout out to those of you who live in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Yesterday was your 185th anniversary of being a diocese. Matthias Loras, who was serving as a priest in Alabama, was named the first bishop of Dubuque on July 28, 1837.

Today is the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. This family (siblings) who were very close friends of Jesus each have a unique story: one industrious, one contemplative and one resurrected from the dead. Vastly different, yet one thing certainly in common. ***They were loved by God and responded in love. Let us do the same.***

God Bless You,

Fr. Jeff Belger
Priest Director